

**ADMINISTRATION OF AEROSOLIZED PENTAMIDINE TO  
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) POSITIVE PATIENTS**

1. **PURPOSE:** This change to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive 97-056 better defines the background of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy for administering aerosolized pentamidine to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) positive patients with special consideration to the healthcare workers providing this medication.
2. **POLICY:** Each VA facility providing care to HIV infected individuals should develop procedures for administering aerosolized pentamidine when medically indicated for HIV infected patients when other forms of PCP prophylaxis are not appropriate.
3. **ACTION:** The first sentence in subparagraph 2b should read: "Prophylaxis should be initiated for all HIV infected patients with a history of prior PCP and for those with CD4 counts less than 200 per milliliter (mm.) or CD4 cells less than 14 percent of the lymphocyte total."
4. **FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** Director, Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Service (132) is responsible for the contents of this Directive.
5. **RESCISSIONS:** This VHA Directive and change 1 expire November 12, 2002.

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Under Secretary for Health

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**THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES NOVEMBER 12, 2002**